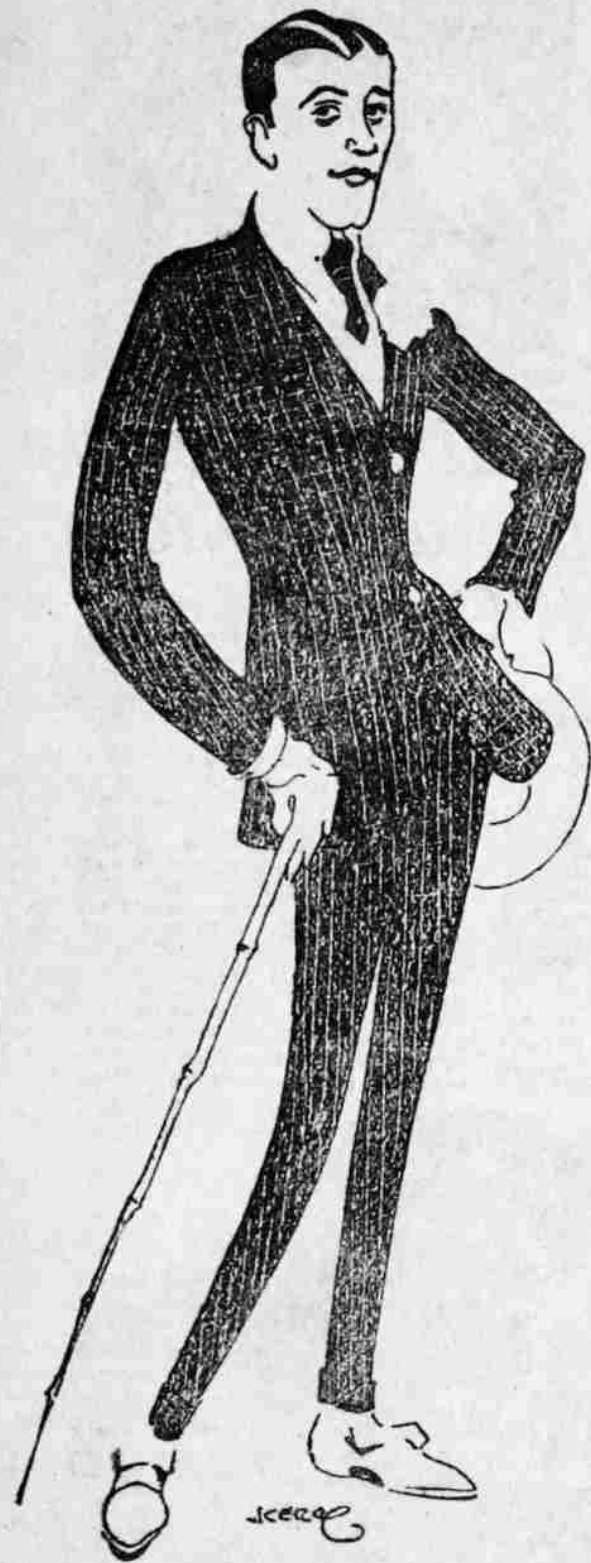


# COL. ASTOR'S NEW BROTHER-IN-LAW

*With Sister Madeleine Force Married to the Richest Man in Society, Is Sister Katherine Force Going to Be Happy With One of the Poor-est?*



A Cartoon Sketch of Society's "Man of Mystery."

ever the Forces were the colonel's guests there also was young Florman. Miss Stallo was abroad. But eventually she heard rumors of her fiancé's devotion to the Force family, and she had her father investigate the tales.

September arrived, and who has yet forgotten the weird rumors about the Astor marriage? The air was filled with the queerest rumors. And always there was noted the presence of a mysterious man whose name was never mentioned in the newspapers.

Some said he was a private detective hired to protect the bride and groom from bomb-throwing freaks. Others said he was a detective hired to break up the ceremony at the last minute. And still other gossips said he was a clergyman in disguise.

But every one was all wrong. He was Nils Florman, the masseur's son and fiancé of Miss Stallo. The colonel's friendship toward the stranger was most marked.

After the wedding the man of mystery went down to New York with Mamma Force and Katherine.

A few days later Miss Stallo cabled to her fiancé, breaking her engagement. Society shrugged and said: "The heiress could not stand so much Force."

When he announced that his engagement was broken, young Florman showed much emotion. Even Mamma Force felt sorry. But speedily the lover took heart of grace and devoted himself entirely to daughter Katherine, and Mamma Force felt sorrier.

Frankly, Madeleine's marriage to Colonel Astor changed Katherine's social standing. To marry Jack Astor's sister-in-law would make a difference to any man, and young Florman went at the love-making hammer and tongs. And he certainly has been aided by the colonel.

The Stallo heiresses and their father denied emphatically that Helena broke the engagement because of Miss Force. The young Swede insisted that the engagement was broken because Helena Stallo could not accept the masseur father-in-law.

For, just after his engagement was announced, Florman discovered that his father was living. And living in New York, not a mile away from the Gotham hotel. And more than that, he discovered that he had a step-mother, and that both his father and his step-mother massaged society for a living!

What a tragedy! Young Florman told his fiancée of his father and of his present occupation. And according to his tale she did not object at first.

As time went on, however, Miss Stallo resented the masseur connection, and this, mingled with the Force rumors, led her to break the engagement.

All this the aspiring Swede told the Forces and the colonel. And the colonel stood up for him nobly. And the colonel's friendship wonderfully helped him in a business way.

Colonel Astor has hinted that when Katherine marries Florman he will back him in a business venture. But, naturally, Mr. Florman is not having everything his own way in his present courtship. No, indeed, Miss Force has a score of would-be lovers. There are only too many

Be Happy With One of the Poor-est?



The Stallo Heiresses, Laura and Helena, The Younger, Sister on the Left, Recently Reconsidered Marrying Mr. Florman.

On the Right, Mrs. John Jacob Astor, Formerly Madeleine Force. On the Left, Miss Katherine Force, Whose Engagement to Mr. Nils Florman Is Expected.

men who would like to become Colonel Astor's brother-in-law.

Just recently Mrs. Force has made one discovery which pleases her and which almost reconciles her to the masseur connection. She has discovered that young Florman's maternal grandmother was Charlotte Marryat, a daughter of one of the dukes of Somerset. Naturally this helps some.

When Mr. Florman began his serious courting of Miss Force he decided to save his pennies, so he gave up his expensive suite at the Gotham and rented an apartment in Thirty-fourth street. This apartment is tiny, but most artistic. It is in the old Astor stable!

Some years ago this old stable was fitted up as a bachelor apartment house. Tiny and exclusive. Here, it was formerly the left, the young lover has set up his lares and penates.

Here he gives delightful little parties, chaperoned by young Mrs. Astor or Mrs. Force. Here Miss Katherine pours tea, and helps him receive his friends.

And who helped him select his furnishings? Who chose his hangings? Who made his sofa pillows? Why, Miss Force, of course!

Is it not appropriate that the mysterious stranger of the Astor-Force marriage should complete his courtship in the old Astor stable?

## How the "Man of Destiny" Wrote to His Wife

Napoleon Bonaparte opened his first wife's letters, was insanely jealous of her and sent her love notes even after he had divorced her and had married the Princess Marie Louise of Prussia. A number of letters written by Napoleon to Josephine de Beauharnais have been found at the palace of Malmaison, and have just been published in Paris. The authenticity of the letters cannot be questioned.

Napoleon married "the beautiful Creole" on March 9, 1796, and then had to rush away to the campaign in Italy, of which he had been made commander-in-chief.

He is arranging a campaign, planning new victories, but writes to her: "I am leaving tonight for Pescara, and thence to Milan, to get a kiss if you will assure me that it will not be a frozen one."

Josephine was very evidently a bad correspondent. He writes from Brescia this week: "I am just on the point of leaving for Verona; I had hoped to receive a letter from you, the disappointment puts me in terrible state. You were not so well when I left; I beg that you will not leave me so worried. You promised me to be more prompt; your

tongue was then in accord with your heart. You to whom nature has given sweetness, kindness and all that pleases, how could you forget one who loves you so warmly? Three days without a letter from you! I have written you several times in those three days."

Again he writes: "I arrived in Milan—rushed to my apartment; I had left everything to see you, to press you in my arms; you were not there. You are traveling around having a good time, keeping yourself away from me—you have no thought for your dear Napoleon. You loved him by caprice; inconstancy makes you indifferent."

The next day he receives no letter from her, and complains:

"To love you alone, to make you happy, to do naught that you oppose—that is the lot of a man who loves himself on my account, he not interested in the happiness of that man who lives in your life, who enjoys naught save the pleasure of your happiness. If I ask of you love like that I give, I am wrong; why ask for love to weigh as much as gold?"

This is his naive confession that he opened her letters, and his veiled threat to keep on opening them.

"I received mail from Paris. There were two letters for you; and I read them. Nevertheless, although this deed seems very simple to me, and I know

you would have given me permission, I am afraid it will make you angry, and that worries me. I wanted to tell you; but that would have been horrible. If I have done anything wrong, I beg your pardon; I swear to you I was not jealous; certainly not; I have too high an opinion of my adorable friend for that. But I wish that you give me full permission to read your letters; then there would be no more of these fears and regrets."

On November 13, the same year, he is still having trouble:

"I do not love you any more; on the contrary, I detest you. You are wicked, foolish, stupid. You do not write to me, you do not love your husband; you know the pleasure your letters give him, and you do not even scribble a half dozen lines."

"What are you doing, madame, all day long? What matters of great importance prevent you from writing to your good, devoted lover? What affection smothered or sets aside that love, that tender and constant love which you promised him? Who can this marvelous new lover be who takes up every moment of your time, rules all your days, and keeps you from thinking of your husband?"

Napoleon became emperor on December 2, 1804, and on various campaigns writes to Josephine in characteristic style.

On November 8, 1806, he becomes somewhat stern:

"I have received your letter, in which you seem to be angry with me because of what I say of women; it is true that I hate intriguing women above all things. I am accustomed to good women, sweet and conciliating; those are the ones I love. If they have spoiled me it is not my fault, but yours. You know I love good, brave, sweet women; but that is because they are like you."

It was December 15, 1809, that Napoleon divorced Josephine, much against his will, and that he was still devoted to her is best proved by letters written at this time, which form a most important part of the batch found.

In January, 1810, he writes: "My friend—D'Audenaude, whom I sent to you this morning, tells me that you have no more courage since reaching Malmaison. That place is filled with our feelings, which cannot and should never change, at least on my side. I would like to see you ever so much, but I must be sure that you are strong, not weak; and I, too, am somewhat so, and that affrights me."

Adieu, Josephine; good night. If you doubt me, you are an ingrate, indeed."

And on April of 1810, he sends his last letter:

"I am always the same; my feelings have not changed. I have not written to you, because you did not write, and I only want to do what pleases you. I see with pleasure that you are going to Malmaison, and that you are contented. I shall be when I receive news of you, and to send you mine. I can say no more than to ask you to compare my letter with yours, and after that I shall let you judge who is the better friend of us two. Adieu, my friend; keep well and be just to yourself and to me."



An Old French Print of Empress Josephine on Horseback.

MANY a man's heart is caught in the rebound! Many a man turns to another girl when one girl has turned him down, or jilted him! Pickle men! Nils Florman, the "Mysterious Stranger" in the recent Astor-Force courtship, having been thrown into the discard by Miss Helena Stallo, one of the well-known Stallo heiresses, is being comforted by Miss Katherine Force, Colonel Astor's pretty sister-in-law!

The wheel of Fate will make a decided turn in the fortunes of the Force family when Katherine marries Florman, as all the gossips say she will.

Madeleine, the youngest of the Force sisters, married Colonel Astor, the richest society man in New York. Katherine, the older girl, may wed one of the poorest! Incidentally, Mrs. Force is not a bit pleased with this newest love affair. But she can do nothing, as Colonel Astor is encouraging the match, and always includes both of the young people in his opera parties.

Having organized such a brilliant matrimonial coup for one daughter, it is a bit hard on Mrs. Force to have her oldest girl "throw herself away" on a man with no money at all!

Society laughs in its sleeve and whispers that this second marriage will even things up!

Mr. Florman is a man with a history, and such men always have a fascination for women. He is a Swede, of very good birth on his mother's side. He is a grandson of Admiral Bonde of the Swedish navy, a nobleman, bearing the title of count, who is also a warm friend of the Swedish king.

Mr. Florman's mother, when a very young girl, ran away and married a handsome young lieutenant in the Swedish army, Gaslo Florman. After this boy was born she returned to her father, the admiral, and divorced her husband. She had three children, two older than Nils.

The husband left Sweden, came to America and, needing the money, became a masseur, eventually marrying a woman of the same profession.

The son, Nils, was brought up by his grandfather. He was splendidly educated and then decided to go in for business. His grandfather sent him to New York five years ago. He entered a brokerage office and has been moderately successful. He knew nothing of his father, supposing him to be dead.

Two years ago young Mr. Florman was stung by the social bee. Being handsome, well bred, fascinating to a marked degree, his social progress was swift. He was clever, even cleverer than Mrs. Force, and succeeded in becoming the greatest chum with Miss Katherine.

At this time there was no idea that Colonel Astor was to become Miss Katherine's brother-in-law.

Mr. Florman lived at the Gotham hotel. In the midst of his social career and his incipient courtship of Miss Force, the two well-known Stallo sisters appeared at the Gotham. They were heralded as thirty-million-dollar heiresses.

Mr. Florman met them. They went to Paris. Mr. Florman went to Paris. Last spring his engagement to Helena, the younger sister, was announced. He returned to New York in July and talked freely of his happiness in having won the "richest heiress" of Cincinnati.

In the meantime the Astor-Force engagement was loudly rumored. Mrs. Force made no secret of the colonel's interest in her youngest girl, the handsome Madeleine. She frowned on the handsome young Swede when he called at the Force house on his return from Paris.

But being the grandson of his grandfather, the brave admiral, young Florman kept on calling. And all the time he was engaged to Miss Stallo.

Colonel Astor took a great liking to the younger man. He took him off for long trips in his yacht, and when

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